

BOOK 12

# Asterix

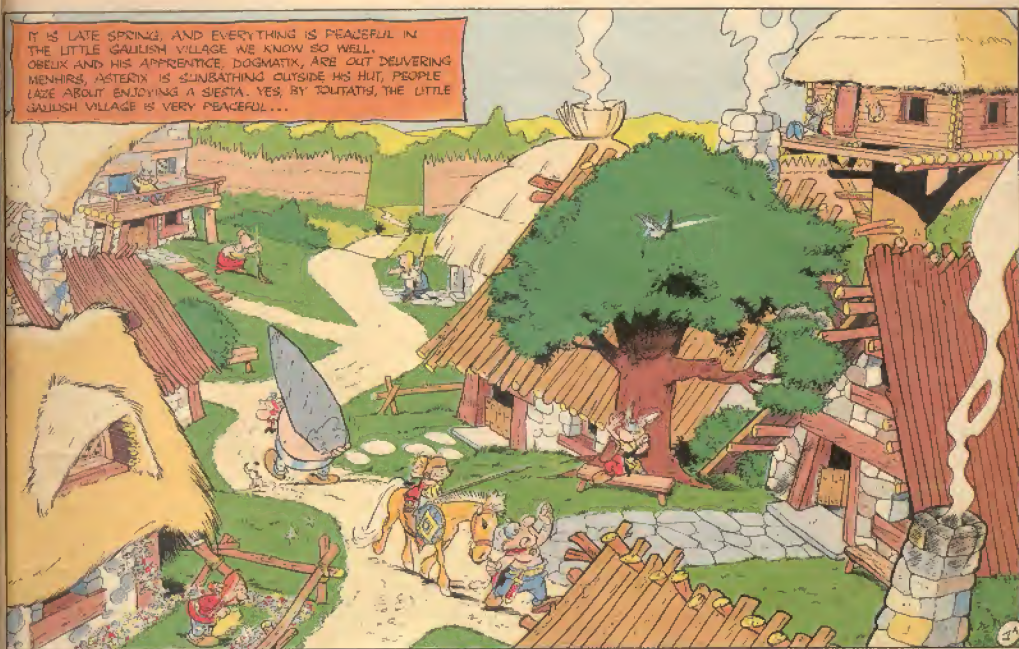
TEXT: GOSCINNY  
DRAWINGS: UDERZO

## AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES



HODDER-DARGAUD

IT IS LATE SPRING, AND EVERYTHING IS PEACEFUL IN THE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE WE KNOW SO WELL. OREUX AND HIS APPRENTICE, DOGMATIX, ARE OUT DELIVERING MENHIRS, ASTERIX IS SUNBATHING OUTSIDE HIS HUT, PEOPLE LAZE ABOUT ENJOYING A SIESTA. YES, BY TOUTATIS, THE LITTLE GAULISH VILLAGE IS VERY PEACEFUL...



WHEREAS THE ROMAN CAMP OF AQUARIUM SEEMS TO BE IN A STATE OF GREAT EXCITEMENT...

**BY JUPITER!**

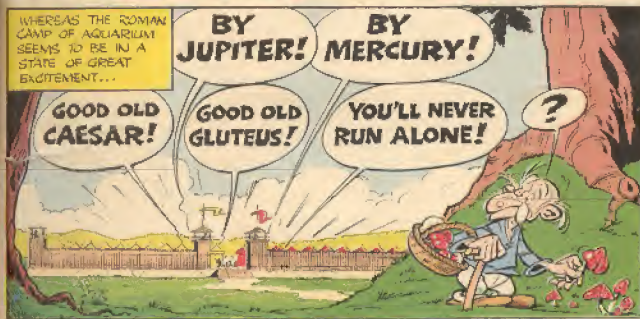
**BY MERCURY!**

**GOOD OLD CAESAR!**

**GOOD OLD GLUTEUS!**

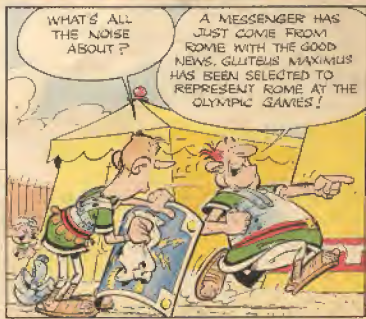
**YOU'LL NEVER RUN ALONE!**

?



WHAT'S ALL THE NOISE ABOUT?

A MESSENGER HAS JUST COME FROM ROME WITH THE GOOD NEWS. GLUTEUS MAXIMUS HAS BEEN SELECTED TO REPRESENT ROME AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES!



GLUTEUS MAXIMUS? WHO'S HE?

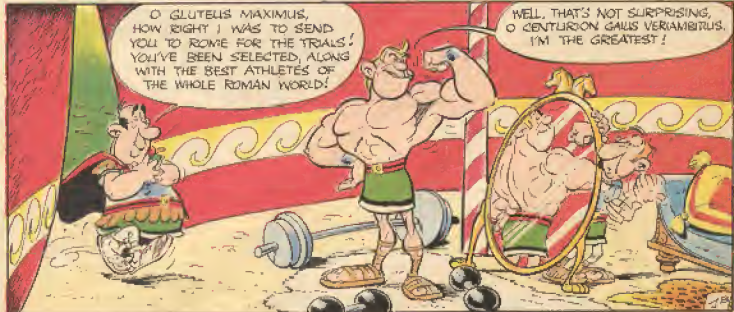
YOU'RE PRETTY GREEN, AREN'T YOU, BILLUS?

GLUTEUS MAXIMUS IS OUR CHAMPION! HE'S ONE OF OUR GARRISON, AND A CREDIT TO US ALL!

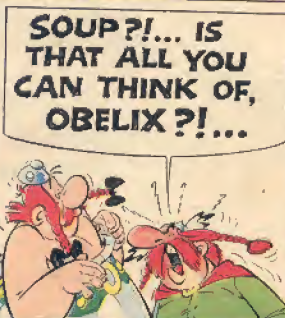
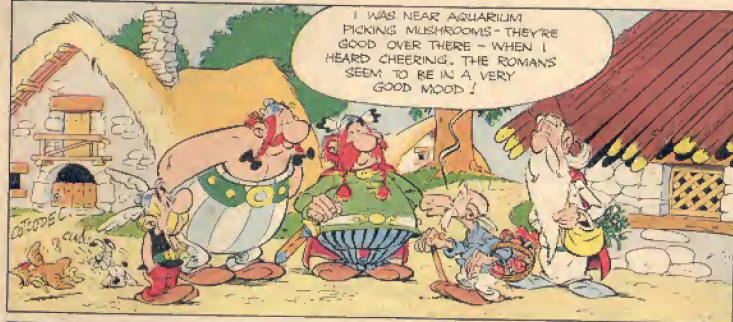


O GLUTEUS MAXIMUS, HOW RIGHT I WAS TO SEND YOU TO ROME FOR THE TRIALS! YOU'VE BEEN SELECTED, ALONG WITH THE BEST ATHLETES OF THE WHOLE ROMAN WORLD!

WELL, THAT'S NOT SURPRISING, O DOUTURON GAUS VERIAMBITUS, I'M THE GREATEST!





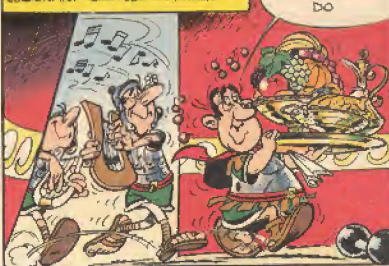




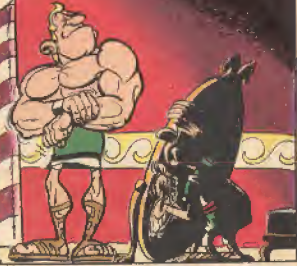
AT AQUARIUM, WHILE THE DUTY BUCCINIST IS BLOWING COME TO THE COOK-HOUSE DOOR, BOYS'...



A MORE SOPHISTICATED BLOW-OUT HAS BEEN PROVIDED FOR LEGIONARY GLUTEUS MAXIMUS



HERE'S YOUR SLIPPER, I HOPE IT WILL DO

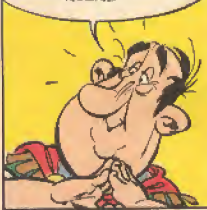


NOT BAD, O CENTURION GAULS VERIANIBITUS. ARMY RATIONS ARE IMPROVING! WHAT ARE THESE LITTLE BLACK THINGS?

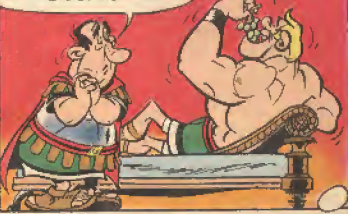


THEY'RE STURGEON'S EGGS, SENT FROM PERSIA TO OUR COMMANDING OFFICER—CAVARE TO THE GENERAL, SO TO SPEAK!

IF YOU WIN THE GOLD PALM AT THE OLYMPIC GAMES THERE'LL BE EXTRA PASSES FOR THE CIRCUS AND PROMOTION ALL ROUND



SPORTING PRESTIGE IS A MATTER OF SUCH NATIONAL IMPORTANCE THAT IF YOU WIN I COULD EVEN BECOME PREFECT OF GAUL! DON'T LET ME DOWN!



STOP WORRYING—I WON'T FAIL YOU, VERIANIBITUS

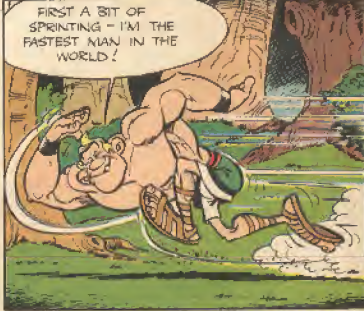
IT'LL BE A PUSHOVER, I'M THE GREATEST! NOW I'M OFF TO THE FOREST TO DO SOME TRAINING



HIS MORALE IS MARVELLOUS. WITH CONFIDENCE LIKE THAT, HE CAN'T LOSE!

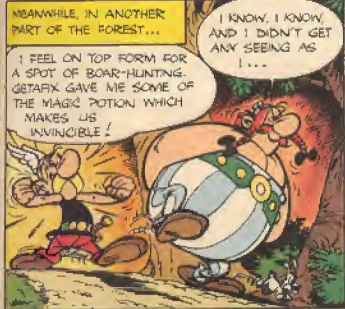


FIRST A BIT OF SPRINTING—I'M THE FASTEST MAN IN THE WORLD!



MEANWHILE, IN ANOTHER PART OF THE FOREST...

I FEEL ON TOP FORM FOR A SPOT OF BOAR-HUNTING. GETAFYR GAVE ME SOME OF THE MAGIC POTION WHICH MAKES US INVINCIBLE!



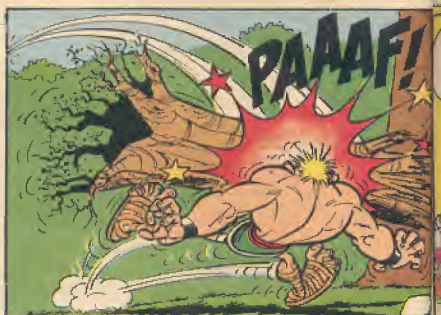
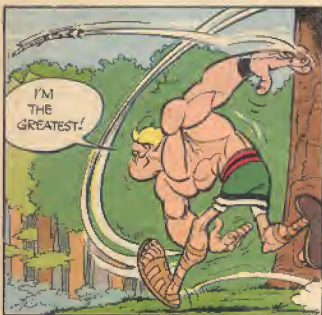
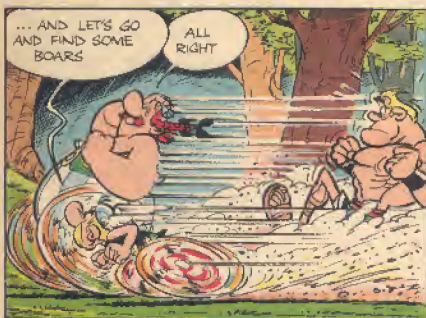
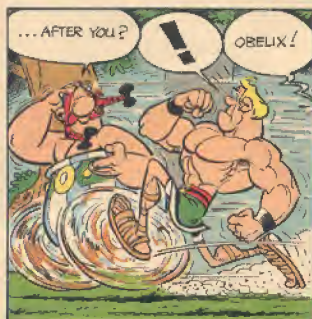
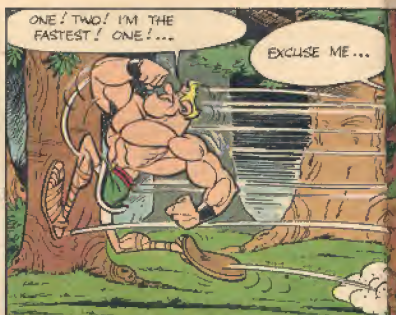
I KNOW, I KNOW, AND I DIDN'T GET ANY SEEING AS I...

ONE! TWO! ONE! TWO!



???







DON'T TAKE ANY NOTICE  
OF MY FRIEND, ROMAN...

OBEUX! WHY DID  
YOU DO THAT?  
HE WASN'T BOTHERING  
US

WHAT D'YOU MEAN?  
HE THREW THAT BIT OF  
WOOD AT MY HEAD, SO I  
THREW ONE BACK AT HIM.  
WE'RE QUITS NOW

YOU'RE NOT GOING  
TO GET AWAY WITH  
THIS, **BY  
JUPITER!**

YOU, FATTY! I'LL TAKE YOU ON AT ORDINARY  
WRESTLING, ALL-IN WRESTLING, BOXING! I'LL  
WALLOP YOU AT THOSE! I'M THE GREATEST!  
I'M...

I'M NOT FAT!

**PAFFF!**

TELL ME STRAIGHT,  
ASTERIX, ONCE AND  
FOR ALL: DO YOU  
THINK I'M FAT?

OF COURSE NOT,  
OBEUX. YOUR  
CHEST HAS SUPPED  
A BIT, THAT'S ALL.  
COME ON, ARE WE GOING  
TO GET THOSE BOARDS?

I'M  
HOPELESS!

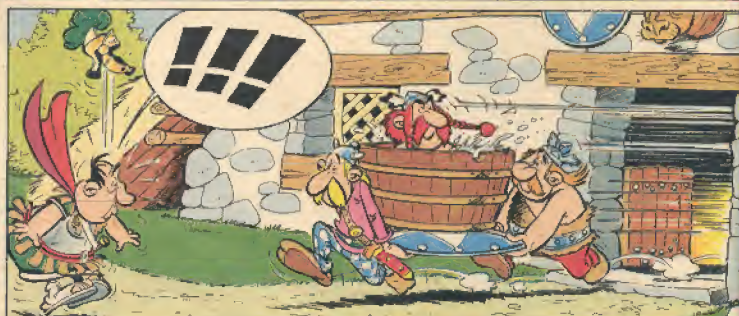
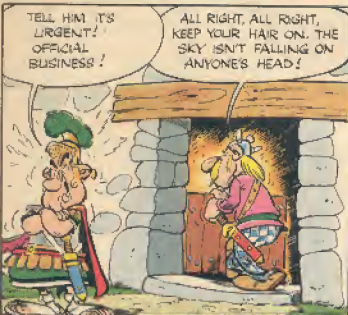
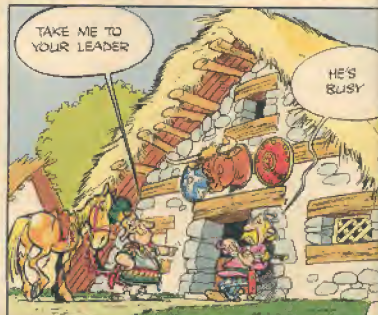
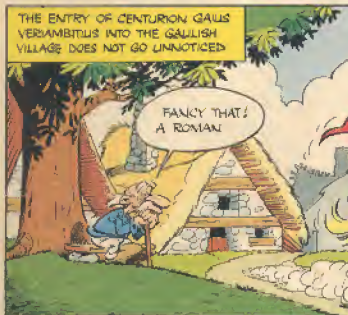
**WHAT D'YOU MEAN,  
HOPELESS ???**

**WHO SAID  
YOU WERE  
HOPELESS?**

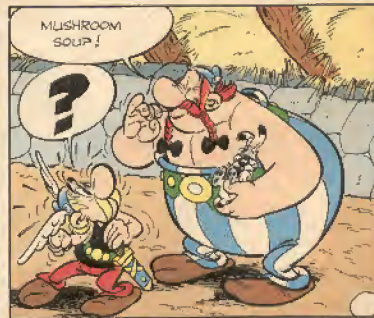
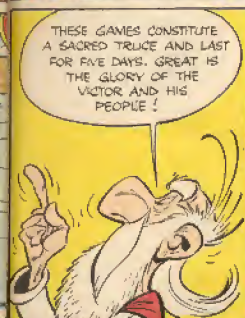
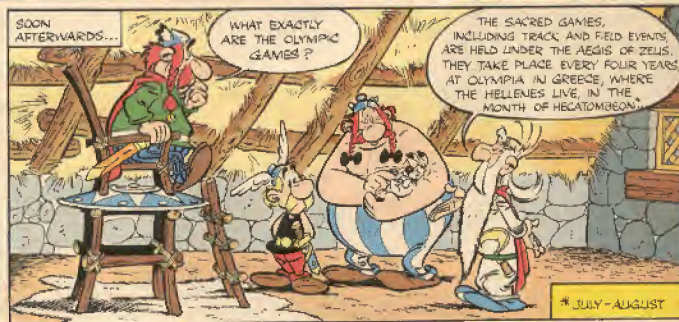
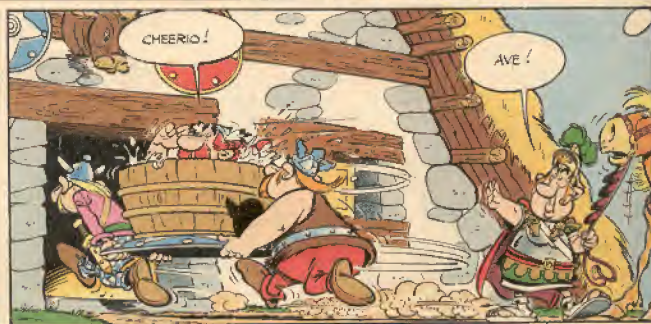
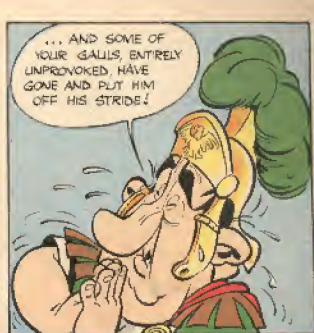
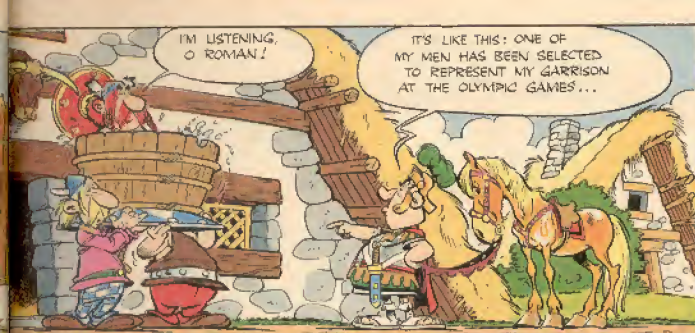
I SAID I WAS HOPELESS, EVERYONE IS BETTER  
THAN ME. I'VE BEEN BEATEN BY ALL THE GAULS  
I MET. A LITTLE TITCH AND A FAT  
ONE WITH A PALUNCH.  
EVERYONE

THE GAULS, BY  
JUPITER! IT'S BEEN A  
LONG TIME SINCE WE HAD  
ANY TROUBLE WITH  
THEM!

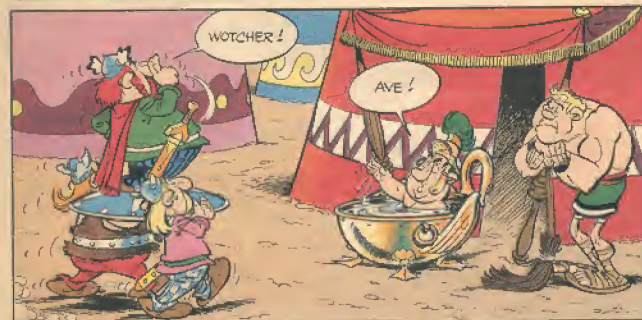
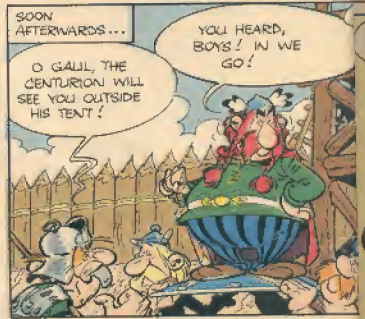
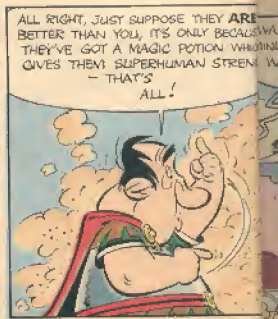
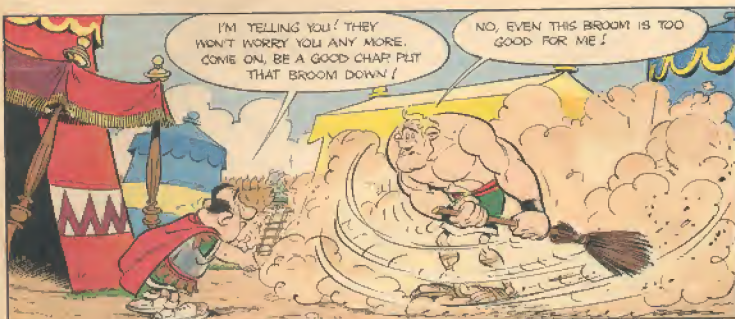




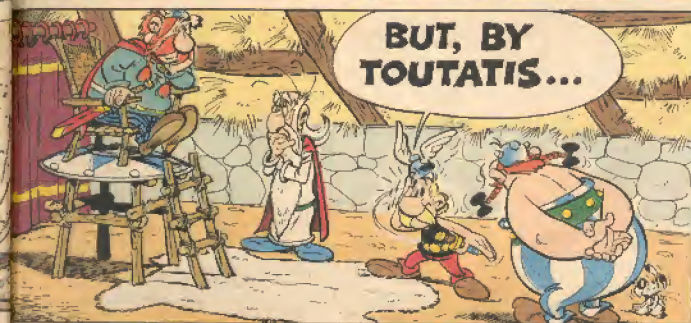
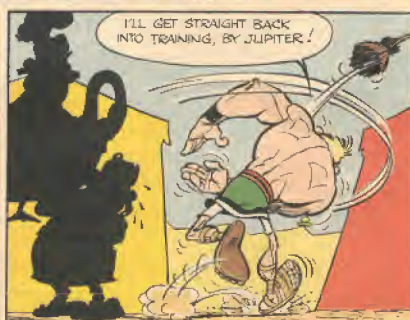
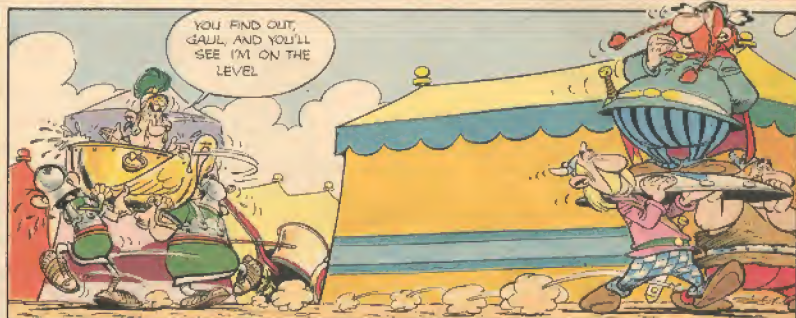




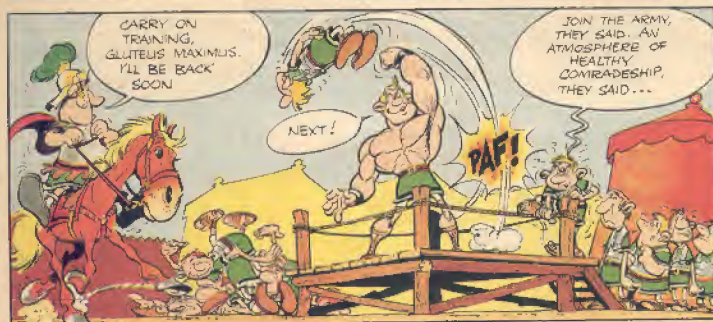
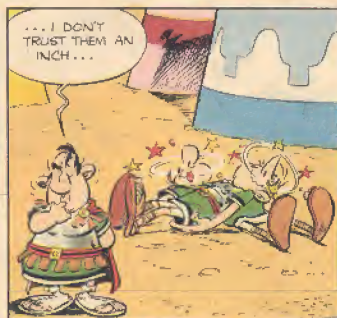




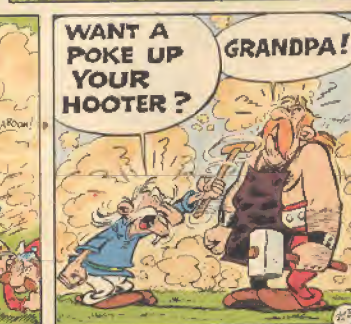
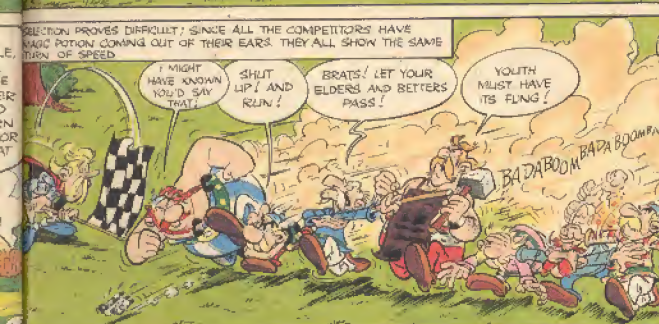
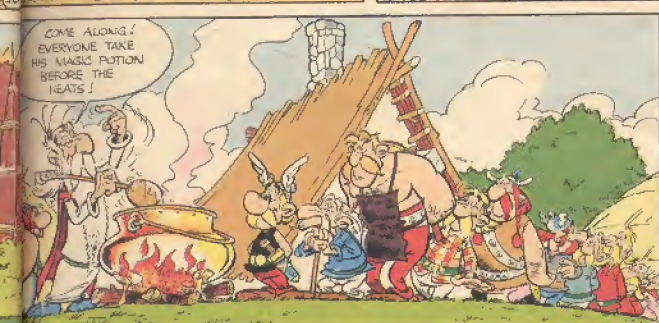
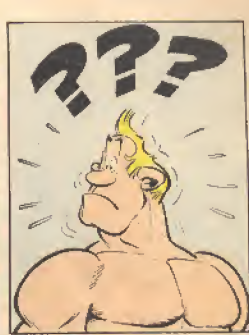
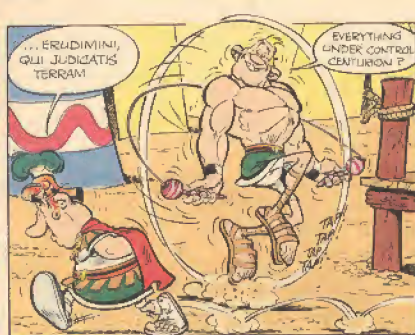














**THE OLDEST INHABITANT SHOULD REPRESENT THE VILLAGE!**

NO! I SHALL GO TO THE OLYMPIC GAMES!

HHH! MIGHT JUST AS WELL SEND DOGMATIX, HE'S BETTER THAN YOU

**BETTER THAN ME?**

WELL, CAN YOU SCRATCH YOUR EAR WITH YOUR HIND LEG?



ORDER! ORDER!  
THE OLYMPIC COMMITTEE HAS CHOSEN OUR TEAM

ASTERIX, BECAUSE HE'S THE MOST INTELLIGENT AND BECAUSE WITHOUT HIM WE WOULDN'T BE COMPETING IN THE GAMES AT ALL, AND OBELIX BECAUSE THE POTION HAD A PERMANENT EFFECT ON HIM

**EXACTLY! I FELL IN WHEN I WAS A BABY!**

GET AWAY! DO TELL ME ALL ABOUT IT...

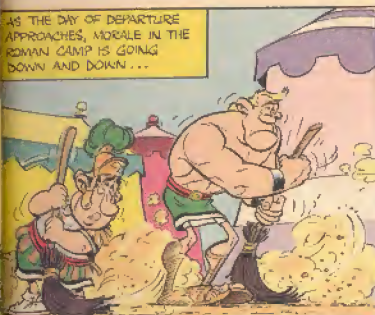
AND NOW, I'VE GOT A SURPRISE FOR YOU! WE SHALL ALL ACCOMPANY OUR TEAM TO OLYMPIA TO CHEER THEM ON!

**GOOD OLD VITALSTATISTIX!  
GOOD OLD ASTERIX!  
GOOD OLD OBELIX!**

OBJECTION!  
I DON'T AGREE!  
LOOK!



AS THE DAY OF DEPARTURE APPROACHES, MORALE IN THE ROMAN CAMP IS GOING DOWN AND DOWN...



... WHEREAS IN THE GAULISH VILLAGE EVERY-ONE IS IN THE BEST OF SPIRITS. CHIEF VITALSTAR ISTIX IS PLANNING THE JOURNEY...



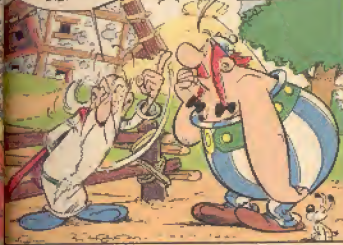
I'VE HIRED A BOAT. WE'RE GOING TO BE VERY COMFORTABLE: ONE CLASS ONLY, DECK GAMES, OPEN AIR SPORTS AND MARVELLOUS ATMOSPHERE!

THE DRUID GETAFIX HAS TAKEN CHARGE OF ALL THE ATHLETES' TECHNICAL PROBLEMS

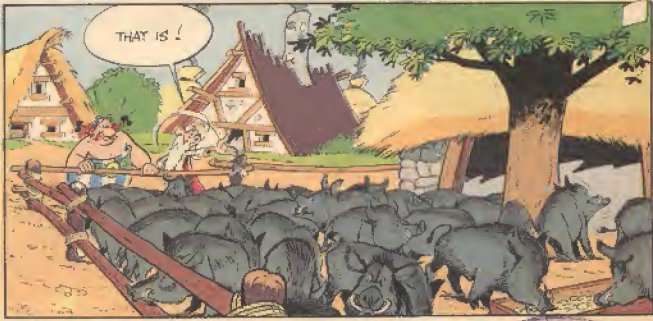
WE MUST PLAN THEIR TRAINING CAREFULLY. FOREIGN FOOD COULD RUIN OUR CHAMPIONS' FITNESS



WE MUST HAVE A WELL-BALANCED DIET



WHAT IS A WELL-BALANCED DIET, O DRUID?



THAT IS!

THE BARD CACOPHONIX IS PREPARING FOR THE POMP OF THE CEREMONIES



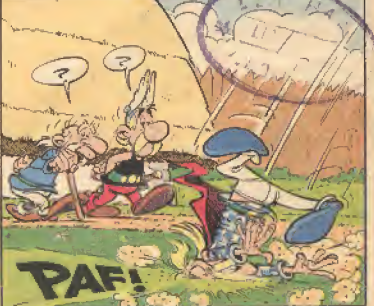
I WILL NOW COMPOSE AN OLYMPIC HYMN

!



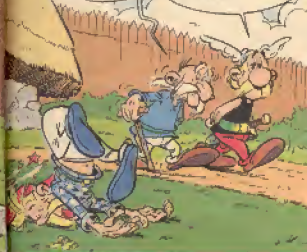
NO, YOU ARE NOT GOING TO SING!

CLONK!

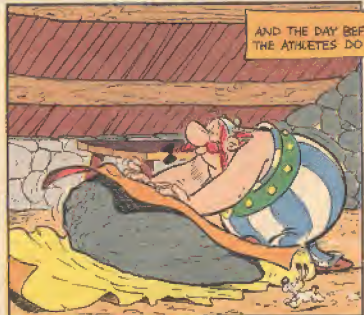


PAF!

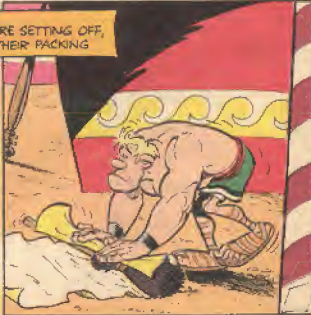
WHAT'S THE MATTER WITH HIS HYMN?



I THINK HE'S SINGING FLAT



AND THE DAY BEFORE SETTING OFF, THE ATHLETES DO THEIR PACKING

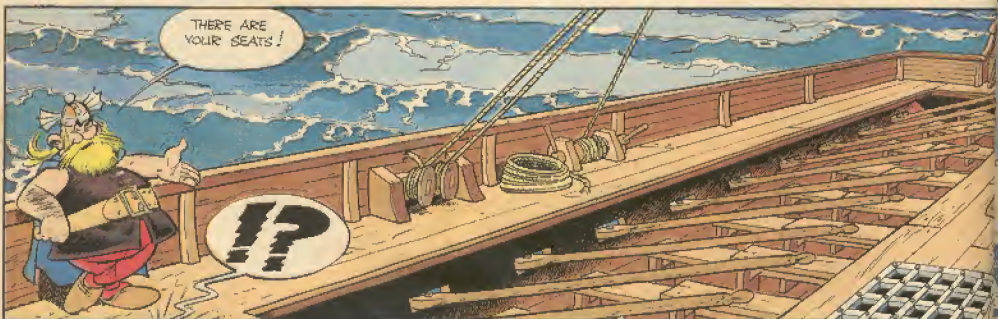
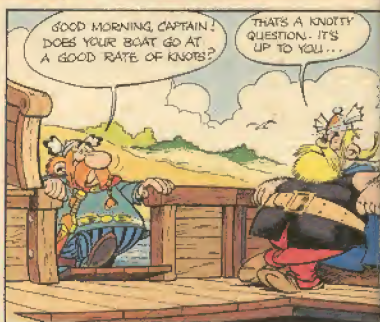
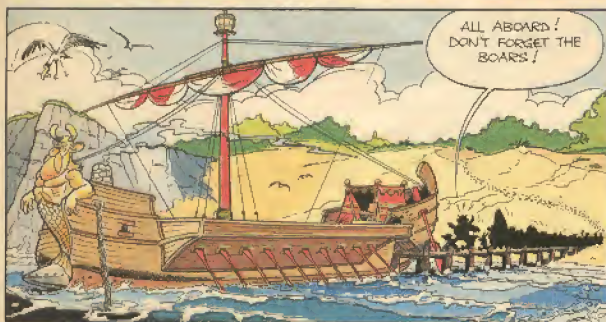
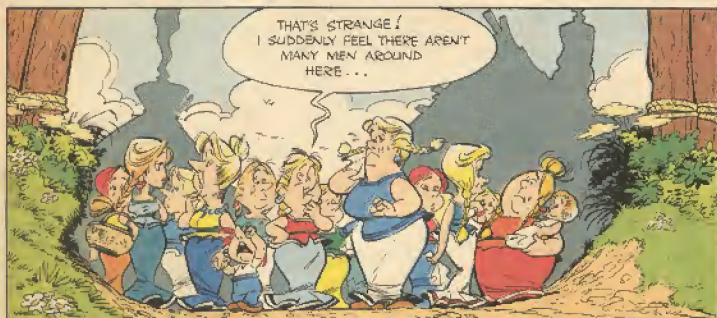




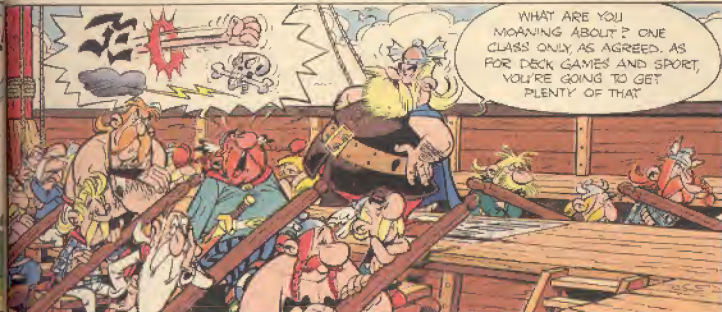
AT LAST THE DAY  
OF DEPARTURE DAWNS  
OUR FRIENDS SET OFF  
FOR OLYMPIA AND  
OLYMPIC GLORY!

**UP GAUL!**  
**WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS!**

**WOOF! WOOF!**  
**WOOF!**







WHAT ARE YOU  
MOANING ABOUT? ONE  
CLASS ONLY AS AGREED, AS  
FOR DECK GAMES AND SPORT,  
YOU'RE GOING TO GET  
PLENTY OF THAT!



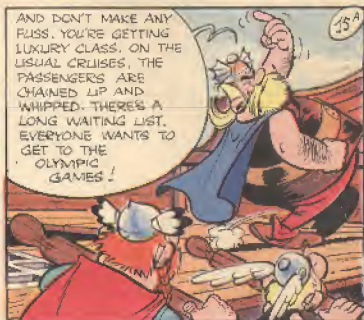
AND I ADVISE YOU TO GET  
ROWING FOR A START, WE  
MUST SAIL WITH THE  
TIDE



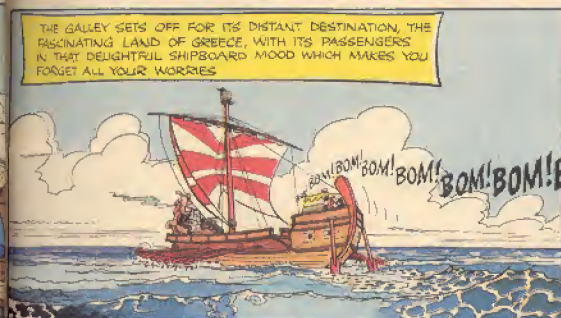
WHAT  
ABOUT THE  
ATMOSPHERE?  
YOU HAVE A POINT  
THERE... LET THE MUSIC  
BEGIN!



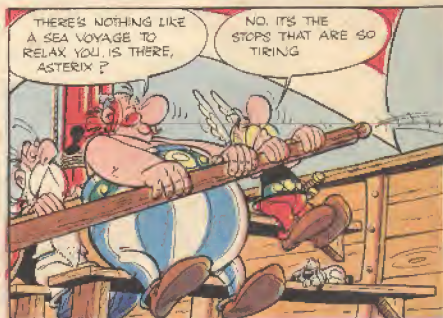
BONG!  
BONG!



AND DON'T MAKE ANY  
RUSS, YOU'RE GETTING  
LUXURY CLASS, ON THE  
USUAL CRUISES, THE  
PASSENGERS ARE  
CHAINED UP AND  
WHIPPED. THERE'S A  
LONG WAITING LIST.  
EVERYONE WANTS TO  
GET TO THE  
OLYMPIC  
GAMES!

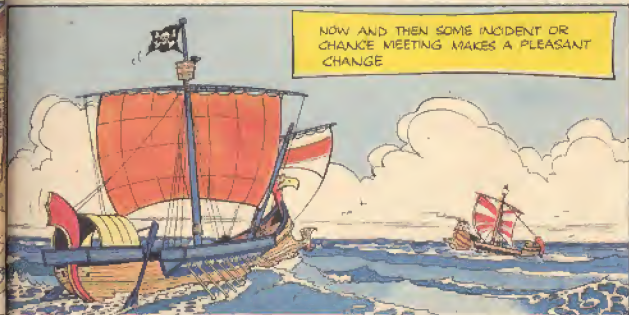


THE GALLEY SETS OFF FOR ITS DISTANT DESTINATION, THE  
FASCINATING LAND OF GREECE, WITH ITS PASSENGERS  
IN THAT DELIGHTFUL SHIPBOARD MOOD WHICH MAKES YOU  
FORGET ALL YOUR WORRIES

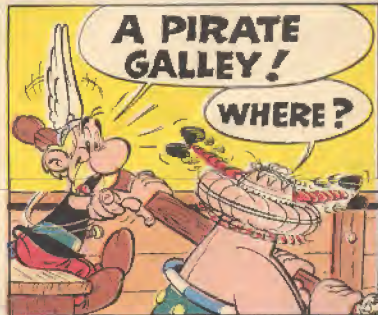


THERE'S NOTHING LIKE  
A SEA VOYAGE TO  
RELAX YOU, IS THERE,  
ASTERIX?

NO, IT'S THE  
STOPS THAT ARE SO  
TIRING



NOW AND THEN SOME INCIDENT OR  
CHANCE MEETING MAKES A PLEASANT  
CHANGE



A PIRATE  
GALLEY!

WHERE?



**GALLEY RIGHT AHEAD!**



THERE AREN'T ONE OR TWO GAULS ABOARD THAT GALLEY, BY ANY CHANCE?



IT'S SWARMING WITH FEROCIOUS GAULISH WARRIORS!



NOW LET'S KEEP CALM, MIE HEARTIES. WE'RE OUT OF OUR DEPTH HERE, STAND BY TO ABANDON SHIP! SCUTTLE HER!

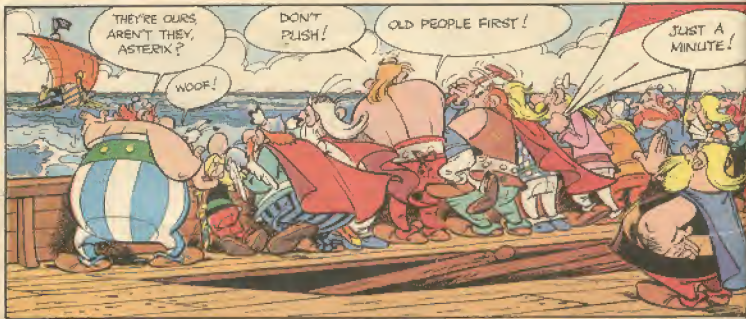


THEY'RE OURS, AREN'T THEY, ASTERIX?

DON'T PUSH!

OLD PEOPLE FIRST!

JUST A MINUTE!



BOARDING PIRATE VESSELS IS NOT INCLUDED IN THE FARE. IT'S AN EXTRA



**WHAT D'YOU MEAN, AN EXTRA?**

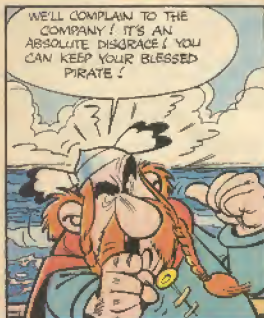
I'D JUST LIKE TO POINT OUT THAT BOARDING IS AN OPTIONAL EXTRA...



APPLY TO THE PURSER. IT'S TWO SESTERTII



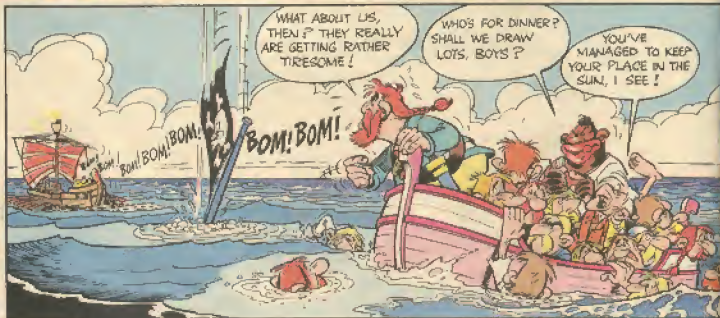
WE'LL COMPLAIN TO THE COMPANY! IT'S AN ABSOLUTE DISGRACE! YOU CAN KEEP YOUR BLESSED PIRATE!



WHAT ABOUT US, THEN? THEY REALLY ARE GETTING RATHER TIRESOME!

WHO'S FOR DINNER? SHALL WE DRAW LOTS, BOYS?

YOU'VE MANAGED TO KEEP YOUR PLACE IN THE SUN, I SEE!





THE VOYAGE  
PROCEEDS  
CALMLY...

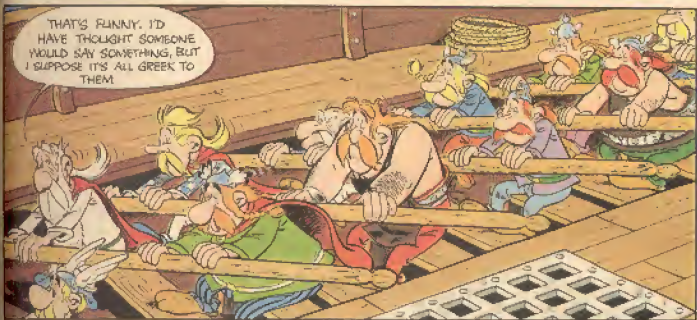


...UNTIL AT LAST  
ONE DAY...

WE'LL BE  
THERE TOMORROW,  
BOYS! PIRAEUS  
AWAITS US!



THAT'S FUNNY. I'D  
HAVE THOUGHT SOMEONE  
WOULD SAY SOMETHING, BUT  
I SUPPOSE IT'S ALL GREEK TO  
THEM



GETAFIX...

YES?



WHO IS  
PIRAEUS?

AN! GOOD!

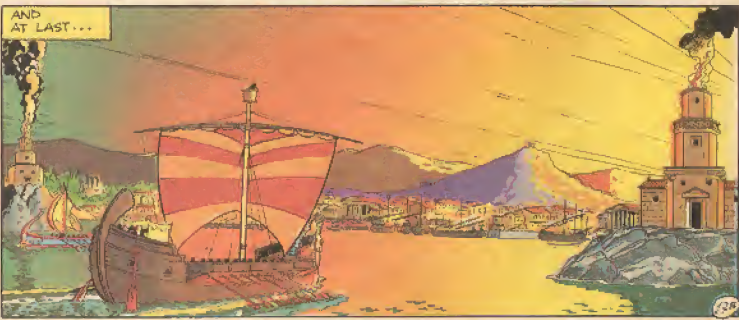


PIRAEUS, AS EVERYONE  
KNOWS NOWADAYS, IS THE  
HARBOUR OF ATHENS.  
THE NIGHT BEFORE  
ARRIVING, AS USUAL,  
THERE IS A FAREWELL  
PARTY ON BOARD  
SHIP

WHEN FATHER PAPERED  
THE PARTHENON...

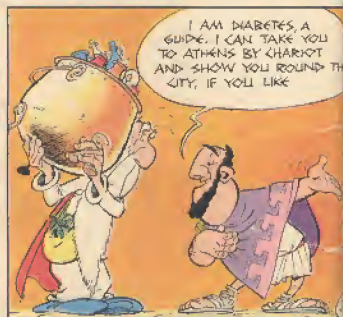
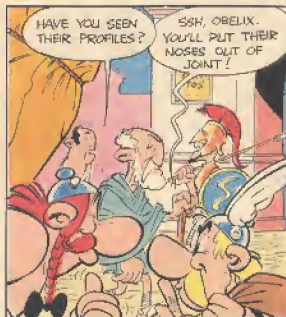
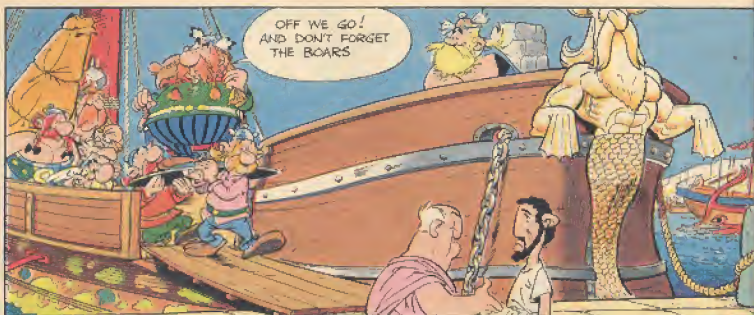


AND  
AT LAST...

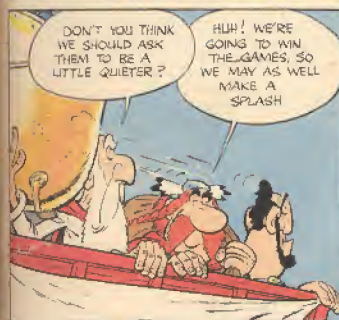




RIGHT, BOYS! WE REPRESENT GALL! LET US BE WORTHY OF HER! WE WON'T DRAW ATTENTION TO OURSELVES, OR MAKE FUN OF THE NATIVES, EVEN IF THEY DON'T HAVE ALL THE ADVANTAGES OF OUR GLORIOUS CULTURAL HERITAGE!



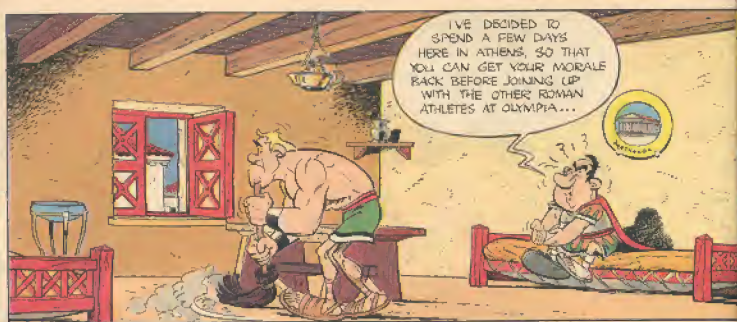






IN A CHEAP ROOM AT A SMALL  
ATHENS HOTEL...

FOR JUPITER'S  
SAKE! STOP CARRYING  
ON LIKE THAT!



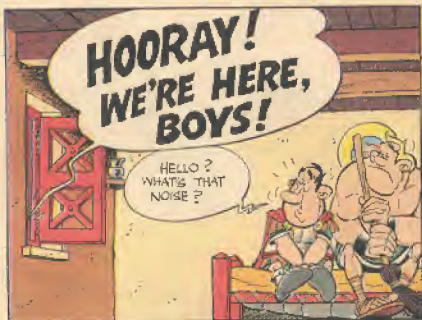
YOU'RE RIGHT!  
I MUST TRY AND  
CALM DOWN

THAT'S IT!  
FORGET ABOUT  
THOSE GAULS!

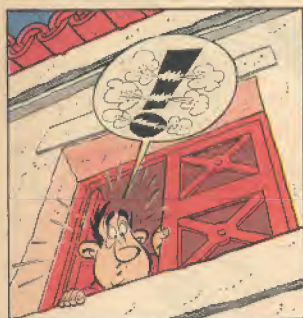


**HOORAY!  
WE'RE HERE,  
BOYS!**

HELLO?  
WHAT'S THAT  
NOISE?

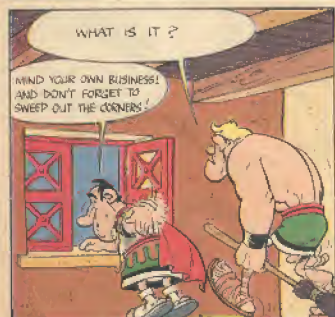


LET'S  
SEE!



WHAT IS IT?

MIND YOUR OWN BUSINESS!  
AND DON'T FORGET TO  
SWEEP OUT THE CORNERS!



YOU'LL BE VERY  
COMFORTABLE HERE,  
BY ZEUS. THE HOTEL  
IS VERY CROWDED,  
SO YOU'LL HAVE  
TO SHARE  
ROOMS

WHAT ABOUT  
THE BOARDS?



YOU CAN KEEP  
PETS IN YOUR ROOMS.  
WE HAVE TO PIG IT  
A BIT WHEN THE PLACE  
IS SO FULL





EXCEPT FOR THE BOARS, WHO ARE VERY FUSSY ANIMALS. EVERYONE IS VERY PLEASED WITH THE ACCOMMODATION.

I'M WARNING YOU. I SLEEP WITH THE WINDOW CLOSED!



COME ALONG, BOYS! DIABETES IS GOING TO SHOW US THE ACROPOLIS!



AND SOON AFTERWARDS ALL OUR TRAVELLERS CAN BE SEEN ON THE SACRED ROCK OF THE ACROPOLIS, WHERE THEY WANDER THE DORYLAEA, THE TEMPLE OF ALE, AND THAT MASTERPIECE OF CLASSICAL ARCHITECTURE, THE PARTHENON...



IT REMINDS ME OF BURDIGALA...

NO THERE'S A LITTLE SQUARE IN MASSILIA...

WHAT, NO DOLMENS?

WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE?

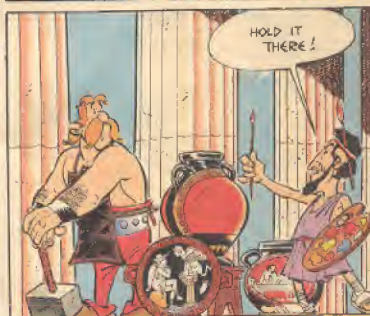
NOT BAD, IF YOU LIKE COLUMNS

LOOK AT THAT! LOOK AT THAT, MY FRIENDS!

SMASHING!



HOLD IT THERE!



WELL, WHAT DO YOU THINK OF IT?

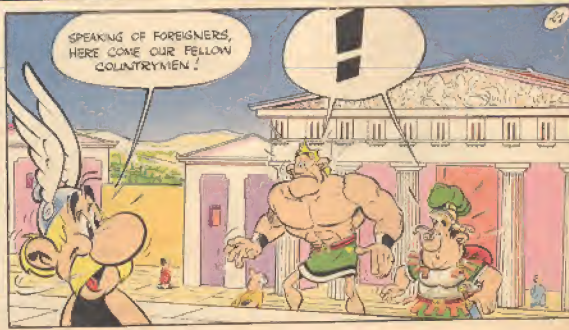
MAGNIFICENT!

YES, IT'S QUITE GOOD, FOR FOREIGNERS



SPEAKING OF FOREIGNERS, HERE COME OUR FELLOW COUNTRYMEN!

!







I AM NOT YOUR FELLOW COUNTRYMAN! IF I HAD MY WAY I'D GIVE YOU BACK GAUL AND REPATRIATE EVERYBODY!



BY TOUTATIS! IT OFFENDS MY ROMAN SPIRIT TO HEAR YOU TALK LIKE THAT!

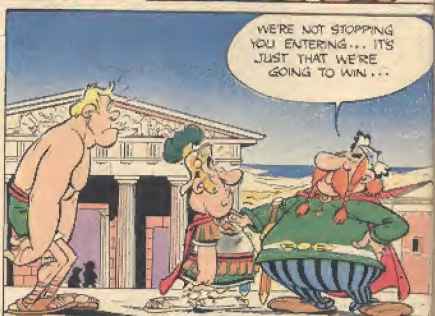


SERIOUSLY NOW, YOU'RE NEVER GOING TO TAKE PART IN THE GAMES?

WITH THE MAGIC POTION THAT MAKES US INVINCIBLE, YOU MUST ADMIT WE'D BE STUPID NOT TO!



BUT IT'S NOT FAIR! WHAT'S GOING TO BECOME OF US?



WE'RE NOT STOPPING YOU ENTERING... IT'S JUST THAT WE'RE GOING TO WIN...



... THAT'S THE POINT!



I'M TAKING YOU TO HAVE LUNCH AT MY COUSIN'S RESTAURANT. HIS NAME'S THERMO'S

THERE'S NO DEPOSIT ON THE AMPHORA. WHAT DO I DO WITH IT?

KEEP IT. IT'LL MAKE A NICE SOUVENIR

ONK!

SO OUR TOURIST FRIENDS ARE INTRODUCED TO THE JOYS OF STUFFED VINE LEAVES, KEBABS, OLIVES, WATER MELON AND RESINATED WINE.



I HAD ONE WITH ME, BUT I LEFT HIM OUTSIDE. YOU'RE NOT SUPPOSED TO BRING YOUR OWN FOOD

WHAT ON EARTH DO THEY PUT IN THEIR WINE?

OH, FOR A DROP OF AQUITANIAN WINE!

D'YOU REMEMBER THAT LITTLE RESTAURANT NEAR LUGDUNUM WHERE WE HAD THAT DELICIOUS YEAL?

IT'S NOT A PATCH ON SCAR!

ONK!







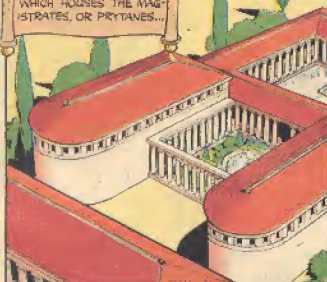
**OLYMPIA!** OLYMPIA,  
WITH ITS TEMPLES OF ZEUS,  
AND PHIDIAS'S STATUE OF  
THE GOD, ONE OF THE  
SEVEN WONDERS OF THE  
WORLD...



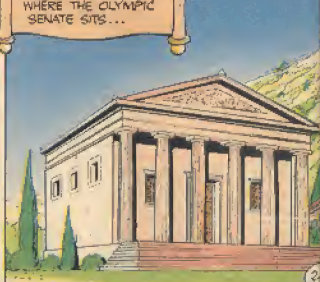
IN THE ALTIS, THE SACRED ENCLOSURE,  
STANDS THE HELLANODIKION,  
WHERE THE HELLANODIKAI, THE TEN  
JUDGES ELECTED BY THE  
MAGISTRATES OF ELIS, SIT...



... AND THE PRYTANEION,  
WHICH HOUSES THE MAG-  
ISTRATES, OR PRYTANES...



... THE BOULEUTERION,  
WHERE THE OLYMPIC  
SENATE SITS...



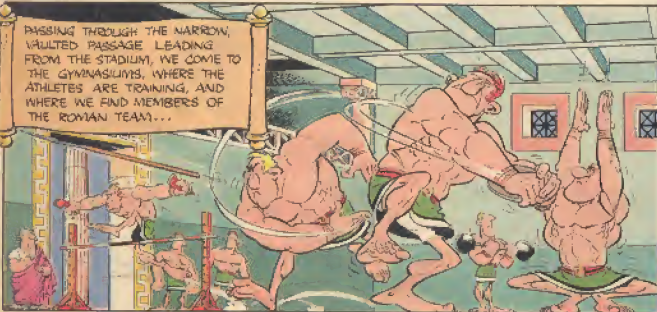
... AND FINALLY, THE STADIUM! THE TRACK IS  
192.27 METRES LONG, THAT IS TO SAY 600  
TIMES THE LENGTH OF THE FOOT OF HERACLES...



... WHICH ALLOWS US  
TO CALCULATE THAT THE  
DEMI-GOD TOOK ABOUT  
SIZE 11 IN SHOES

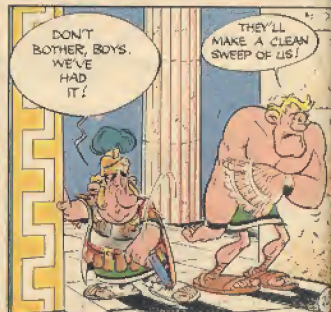


PASSING THROUGH THE NARROW,  
VAULTED PASSAGE LEADING  
FROM THE STADIUM, WE COME TO  
THE GYMNASIUM, WHERE THE  
ATHLETES ARE TRAINING, AND  
WHERE WE FIND MEMBERS OF  
THE ROMAN TEAM...



DON'T  
BOTHER, BOYS.  
WE'VE  
HAD  
IT!

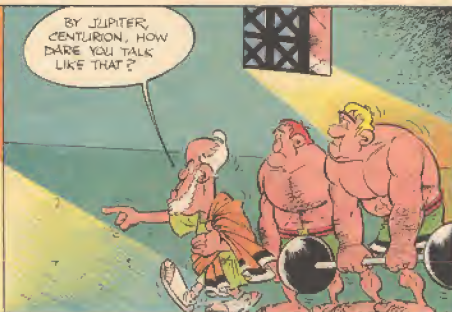
THEY'LL  
MAKE A CLEAN  
SWEEP OF US!







BY JUPITER, CENTURION, HOW DARE YOU TALK LIKE THAT?



WE HAVE HERE THE FLOWER OF THE ROMAN LEGIONS! ATHLETES PICKED FROM ALL THE GARRISONS OF THE ROMAN EMPIRE! NO ONE CAN BEAT US!



NO ONE? GO ON, TELL HIM, GLUTEUS MAXIMUS!



WELL THERE'S THIS LITTLE GALL, AND THIS OTHER FAT ONE WITH A CHEST THAT'S SLIPPED A BIT...

AND THEY'RE STUFFED WITH MAGIC POTION! AR-SO LUTELY INVINCIBLE!



CAESAR WON'T BE PLEASED IF WE DON'T BRING BACK ONE OR TWO PALMS OF VICTORY!

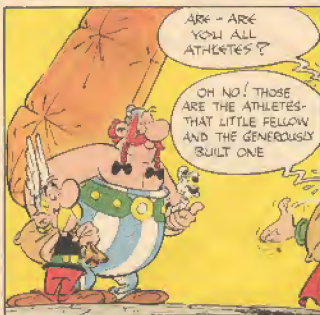
NO, HE WILL NOT BE PLEASED!



FOR HERMES' SAKE WHAT'S THAT?



ROMANS?



ARE - ARE YOU ALL ATHLETES?

OH NO! THOSE ARE THE ATHLETES - THAT LITTLE FELLOW AND THE GENEROUSLY BUILT ONE



FOZKINNT YATPO

ANCIENT ROME IS REALLY GETTING DECADENT!

I'LL SAY!

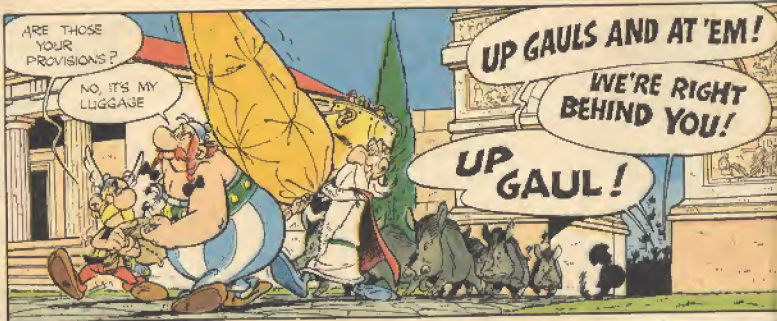


RIGHT... ER... WELL, THE ATHLETES AND THEIR TRAINER CAN BE ADMITTED TO THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE, ALONG WITH THEIR LUGGAGE AND PROVISIONS



ARE THOSE YOUR PROVISIONS?

NO, IT'S MY LUGGAGE



UP GAULS AND AT 'EM!

WE'RE RIGHT BEHIND YOU!

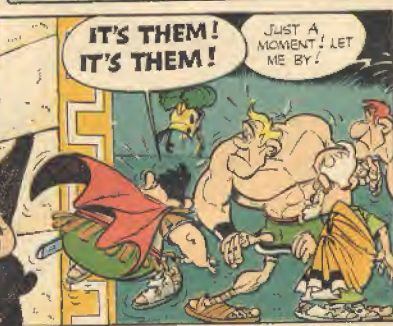
UP GAUL!

HI, ROMANS!

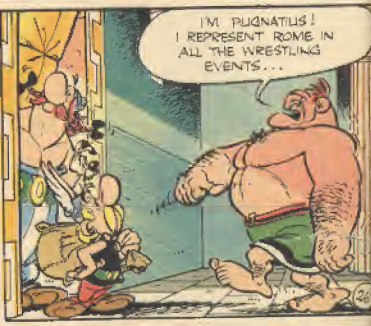


IT'S THEM!  
IT'S THEM!

JUST A  
MOMENT! LET  
ME BY!



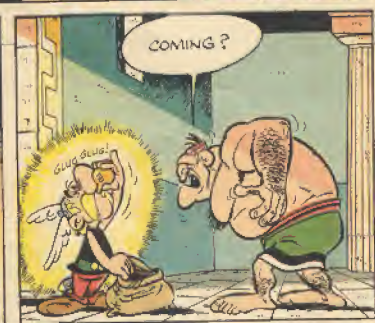
I'M PUGNATIUS!  
I REPRESENT ROME IN  
ALL THE WRESTLING  
EVENTS...



I HEAR YOU'RE VERY  
STRONG, GAUL. I DON'T  
BELIEVE IT! (COME ON,  
PROVE IT,  
BY MINERVA!



COMING?



COMING!



CAN I  
PROVE IT TOO,  
ASTERIX?

I DON'T KNOW.  
ASK HIM!



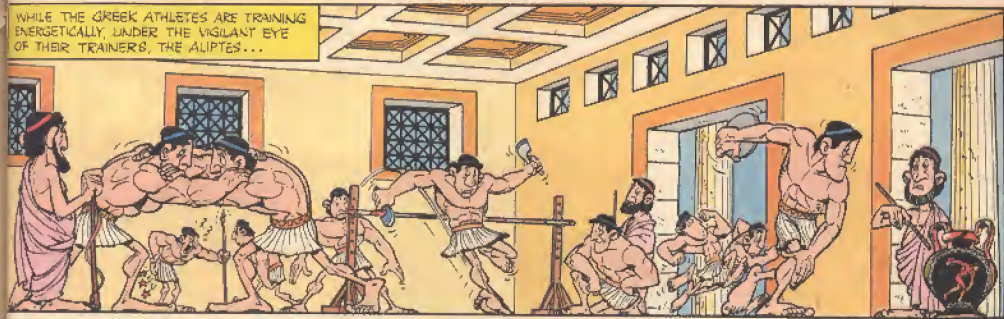
CAESAR... CAESAR REALLY  
IS **NOT** GOING TO BE  
PLEASED, IS HE?

HE WON'T  
TELL ME,  
ASTERIX

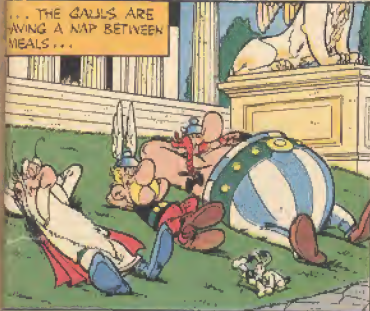




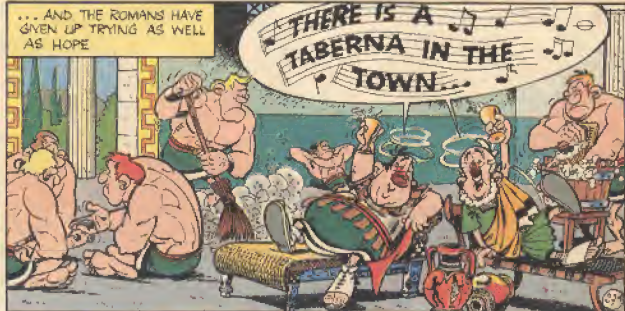
WHILE THE GREEK ATHLETES ARE TRAINING ENERGETICALLY, UNDER THE VIGILANT EYE OF THEIR TRAINERS, THE AULTES...



... THE GAULS ARE HAVING A NAP BETWEEN MEALS...



... AND THE ROMANS HAVE GIVEN UP TRYING AS WELL AS HOPE

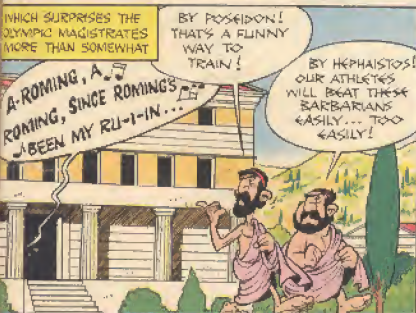


WHICH SURPRISES THE OLYMPIC MAGISTRATES MORE THAN SOMEWHAT

BY POSEIDON! THAT'S A FUNNY WAY TO TRAIN!

A-ROMING, A-ROMING, SINCE ROMINGS' BEEN MY RU-I-IN...

BY HEPHAISTOS! OUR ATHLETES WILL BEAT THESE BARBARIANS EASILY... TOO EASILY!

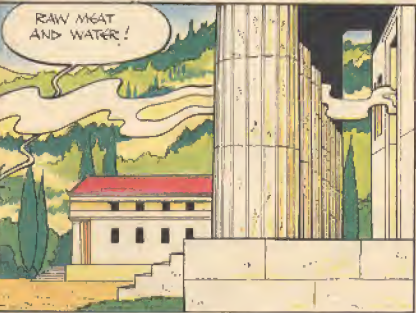


LOOK AT THAT! THEY'RE SLUDDING THEMSELVES!

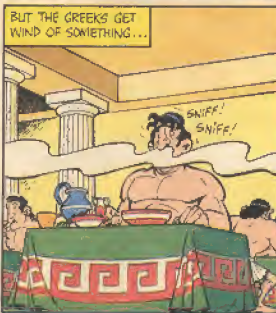
WHILE OUR VIRTUOUS ATHLETES ARE LIVING ON FIGS, OLIVES...



RAW MEAT AND WATER!



BUT THE GREEKS GET WIND OF SOMETHING...



... WHICH LEADS TO REGRETTABLE INCIDENTS IN THE OLYMPIC VILLAGE

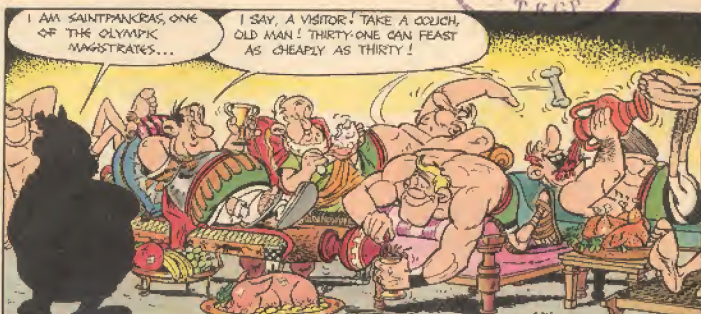
I'M NOT EATING THIS!



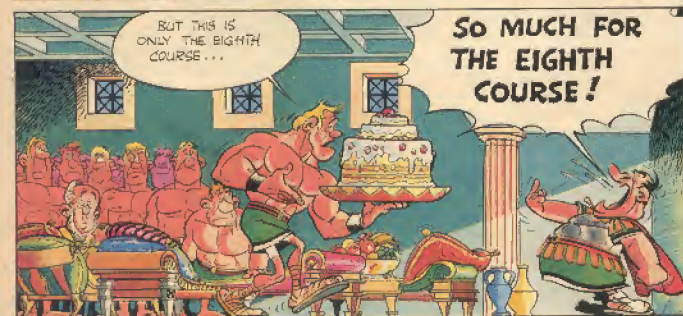
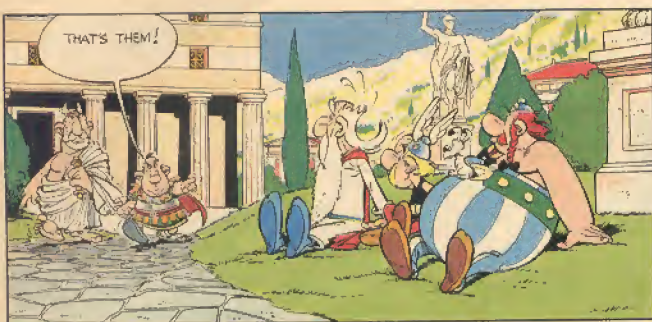




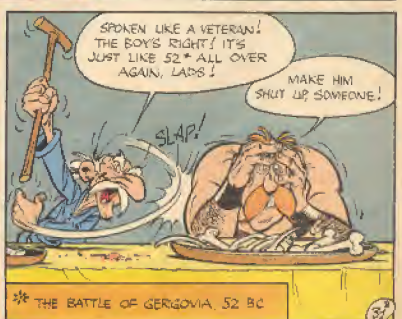




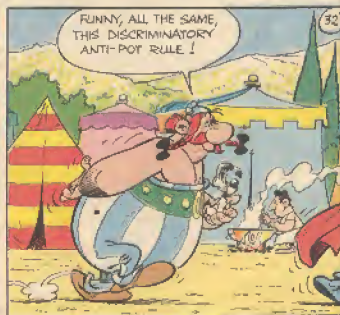
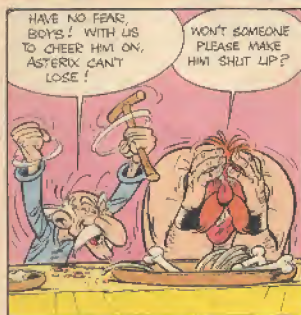
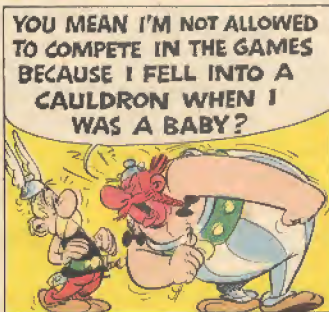
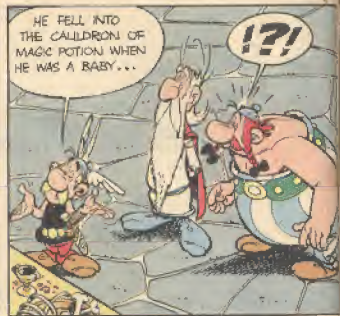




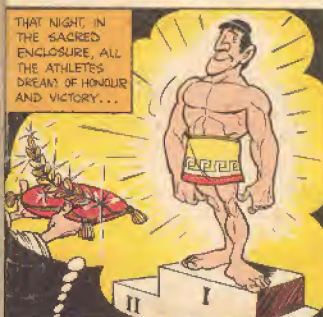
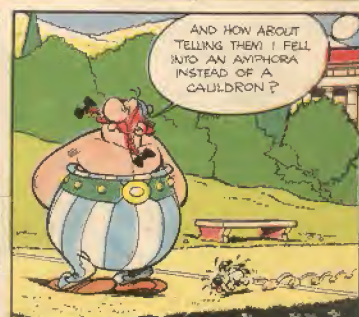
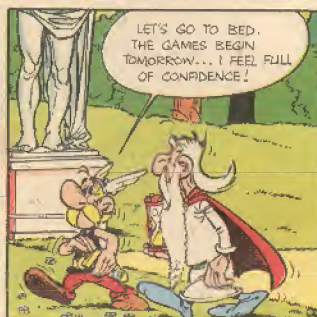
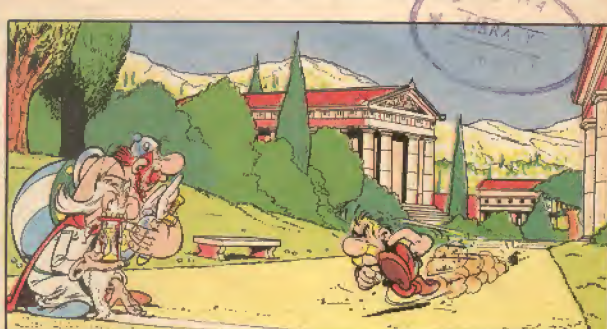




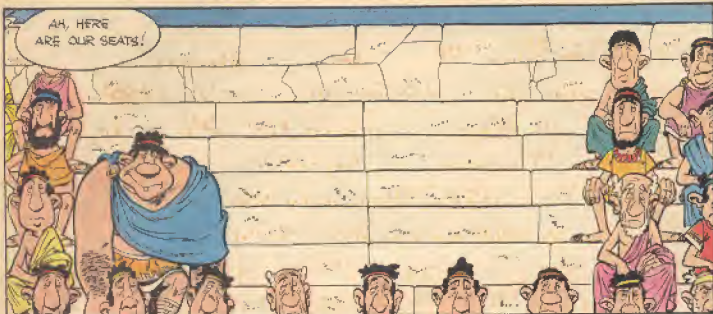








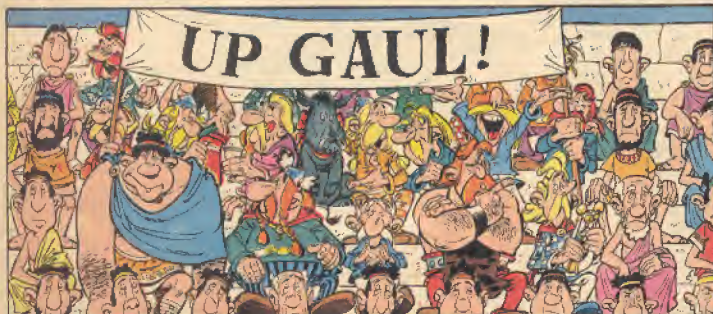




AH, HERE  
ARE OUR SEATS!

RIGHT: IT'S ALL SETTLED THEN - WE ACT  
IN A CALM AND DIGNIFIED WAY AND  
RESPECT OUR OPPONENTS: WE'LL BE GOOD  
SPORTS AND NOT MAKE OURSELVES  
CONSPICUOUS

AS IF WE  
WOULD!



UP GAUL!

AFTER TAKING THE OLYMPIC OATH ON THE  
ALTAR OF ZEUS HERKIOS...

WE ARE FREE MEN OF PURE  
HELLENIC BLOOD WHO HAVE  
NEVER COMMITTED ANY CRIMINAL  
OR SACRILEGIOUS ACTS. WE  
SWEAR TO ABIDE BY  
THE RULES OF THE  
GAMES...



... THE ATHLETES ENTER THE STADIUM. THE MEN FROM  
THERMOPIYLA ARE THE FIRST TO PASS BY. EVERYONE IS  
BACK IN TRAINING! THE ATHLETES FROM NIKAGESA ARE ON  
A MILK DIET. THE TEAM FROM GOS IS ON LETTUCE AND EVEN  
THE MEN OF SALAMIS HAVE GONE VEGETARIAN...

THERMOPIYLA



... AND THERE IS A SPARTAN ASSORTMENT WHO  
ARE BARBECOOT, BUT A FEW OF THE ATHLETES  
ARE LATE: THE MARATHON TEAM HAS HAD TO  
COME A LONG DISTANCE AND SOME OF THE COM-  
PETITORS FROM ATTICA ARE MYSTERIOUSLY ELUSIVE.

SPARTA



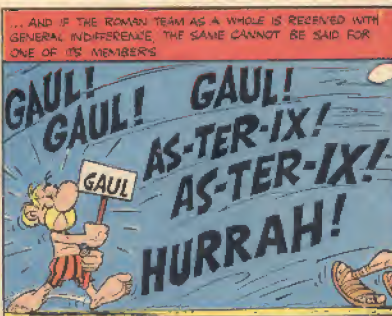
RHODES HAS SENT ONLY  
ONE REPRESENTATIVE: A  
COLOSSUS...

RHODES



YOHOOO!  
BIG BROTHER IS  
WATCHING YOU!

SSH. LET'S BE  
GOOD SPORTS!

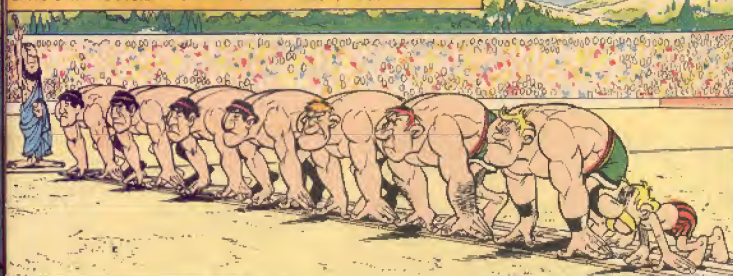


... AND IF THE ROMAN TEAM AS A WHOLE IS RECEIVED WITH  
GENERAL INDIFFERENCE, THE SAME CANNOT BE SAID FOR  
ONE OF ITS MEMBERS

GAUL! GAUL! GAUL!  
AS-TER-IX!  
AS-TER-IX!  
HURRAH!



THE ATHLETES, BOTH GREEK AND ROMAN, GET INTO POSITION FOR THE FIRST RACE, 20 LAPS UP AND DOWN THE STADIUM. THEY ARE ALL AT THE PRESENT TENSE...



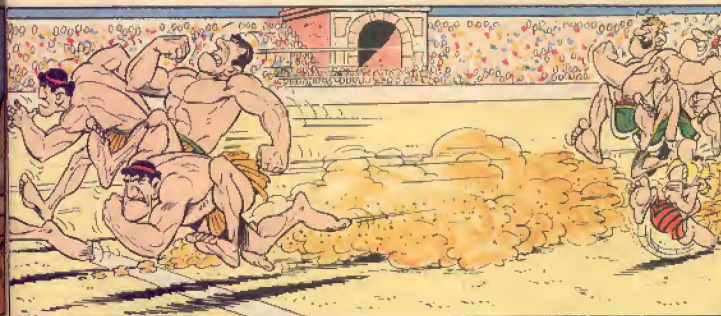
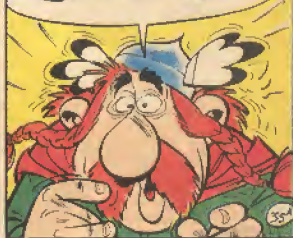
...AND THE STARTER'S MOOD IS IMPERATIVE...



**GAUL! GAUL! GAUL!**  
**AS-TER-IX! AS-TER-IX!**



**GAU...!**



SPARTA



NOT BAD, ASTERIX

THOSE SPARTANS ARE STRONG. THE ROMANS ARE VERY FIT TOO



IF YOU HADN'T MADE YOUR POTION IN A CAULDRON, I COULD HAVE ENTERED FOR THAT RACE! IF ONLY YOU'D USED AN ORDINARY POT... JUST MY LUCK!

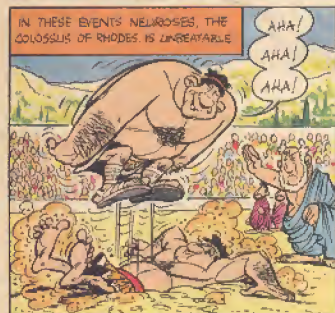
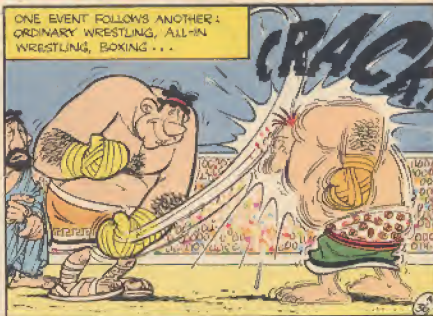
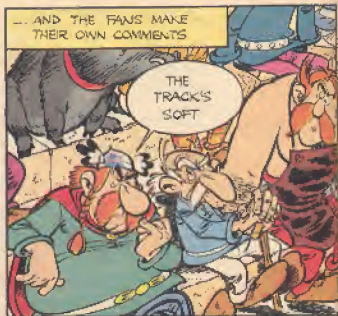


THIS IS NOT A QUESTION OF TAKING POT LUCK, ORELIX



WE SEE HERE THE ORIGIN OF AN EXPRESSION WHICH HAS COME DOWN TO US FROM ANCIENT OLYMPIC TIMES







AT THE END OF THE DAY, THE ATHLETES RETURN TO THE SACRED ENCLOSURE TO TAKE STOCK...

WELL, IN VIEW OF YOUR BRILLIANT RESULTS, DO YOU THINK JULIUS CAESAR IS GOING TO BE PLEASED?



IN THE BOULESTERION, THE OLYMPIC SENATE, THE MAGISTRATES, HELLANODIKAI, PRIESTS AND OFFICIALS HAVE ASSEMBLED. PHILIBUSTER, THE GREAT ORATOR, IS IN THE CHAIR

NOBLE AND VENERABLE FRIENDS! OUR OWN ATHLETES ARE GOING TO WIN ALL THE PALMS, AS USUAL!

THAT'S RIGHT!

BY ATHENE!

BY APOLLO!

UP WITH US!



BUT WE CAN'T ASK OUR ATHLETES TO CHEAT, JUST TO LET THESE DECADENT BARBARIANS WIN!



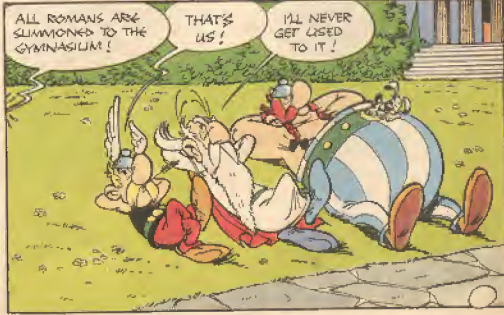
EUREKA! I THINK I HAVE IT!



ALL ROMANS ARE SUMMONED TO THE GYMNASIUM!

THAT'S US!

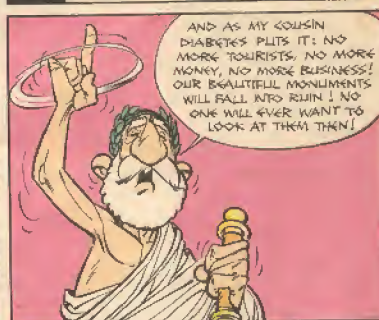
I'LL NEVER GET USED TO IT!



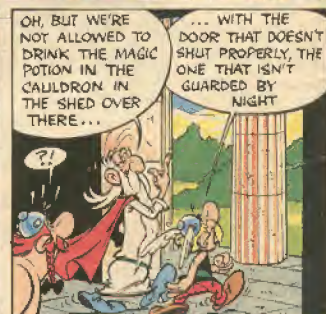
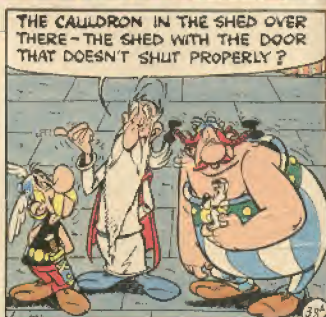
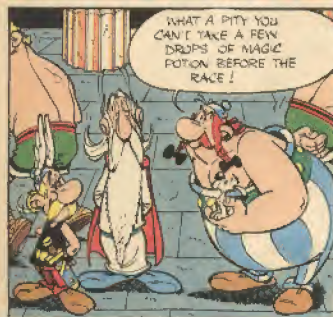
NONE THE LESS, IF WE DON'T GIVE THESE ROMAN BARBARIANS THE CHANCE OF WINNING ONE PALM, TOURISTS WILL TAKE NO MORE INTEREST IN OUR GAMES...



AND AS MY COUSIN DIABETES PUTS IT: NO MORE TOURISTS, NO MORE MONEY, NO MORE BUSINESS! OUR BEAUTIFUL MONUMENTS WILL FALL INTO RUIN! NO ONE WILL EVER WANT TO LOOK AT THEM THEN!



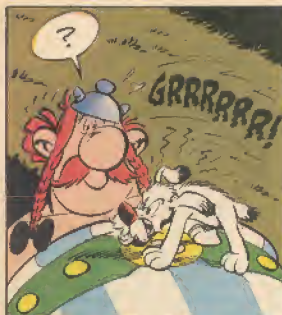




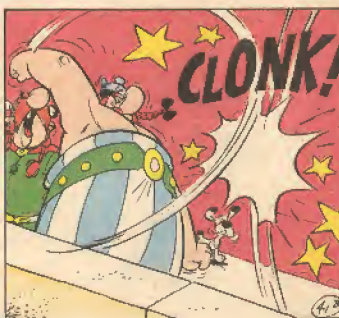
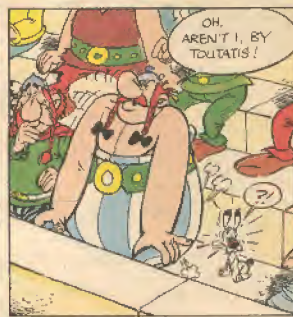
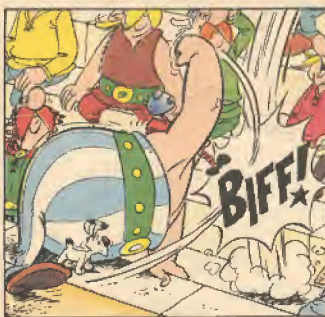
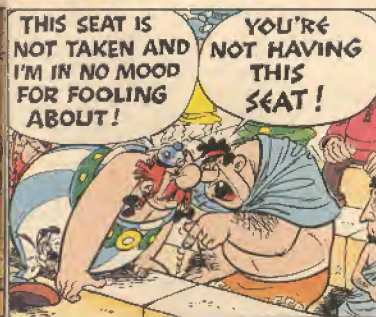
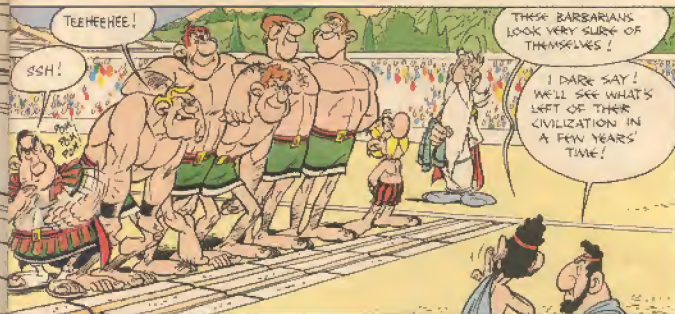




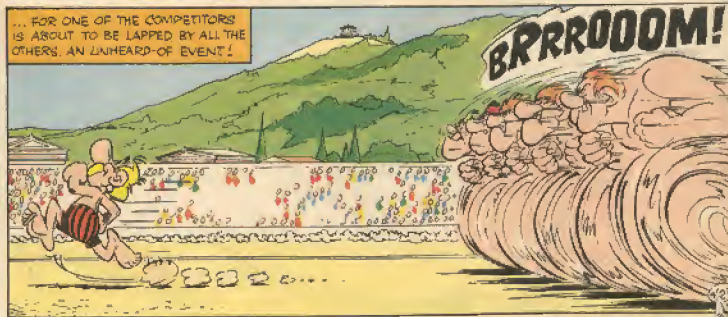
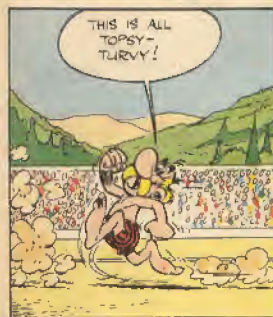
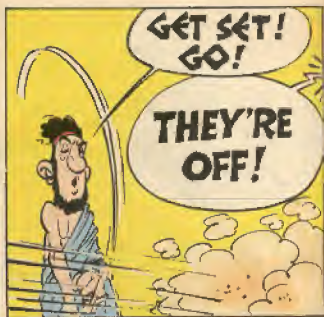
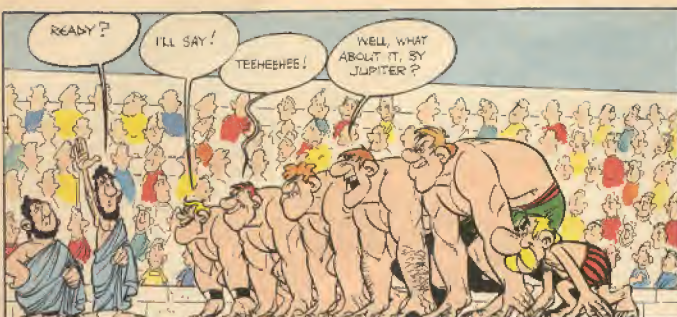








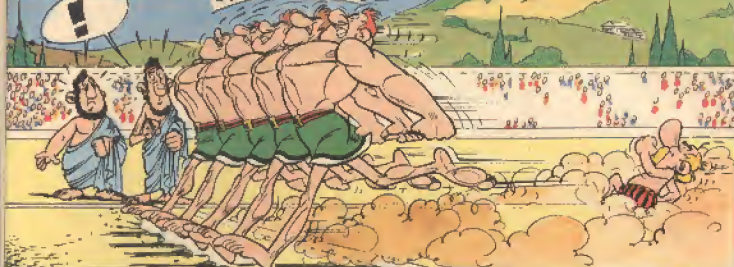






THEY REACH THE FINISHING LINE!

GNNGNGN!



IT MUST BE THEIR HABIT OF MARCHING IN RANKS, BY APOLLO!

HOW ARE WE GOING TO GET ALL THIS LOT ON THE PODIUM, BY ARTEMIS?



CAESAR WILL BE PLEASED WON'T HE?

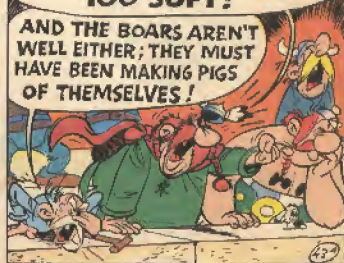
ONE MOMENT! I WISH TO RAISE AN OBJECTION

OBJECTION?



**YES! THE TRACK WAS TOO SOFT!**

**AND THE BOARS AREN'T WELL EITHER; THEY MUST HAVE BEEN MAKING PIGS OF THEMSELVES!**



I ACCUSE ALL WHO FINISHED FIRST OF BEING FULL OF MAGIC POTION UP TO THE EARS!

THIS IS A VERY SERIOUS ACCUSATION! CAN YOU PROVE IT?

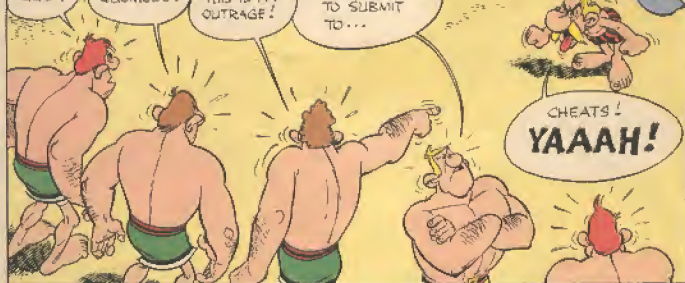


QUID?

QUOMODO?

THIS IS AN OUTRAGE!

I REFUSE TO SUBMIT TO...



CHEATS!  
**YAAAH!**

**YAAAH YOURSELF!**



LOOK! I ADDED SOME PERMITTED COLOURING MATTER TO THE CALDRON OF MAGIC POTION... THOSE WHO DRANK IT HAVE ALL GOT BLUE TONGUES!

BY HERMES, YOU'RE RIGHT!





WE OUGHT TO  
HAVE HELD OUR  
TONGUES!

I'M FEELING  
RATHER BLUE  
MYSELF!

THE OLYMPIC SENATE WILL CONSIDER  
THIS UNPRECEDENTED SITUATION!

A FEW MINUTES LATER...

ALL COMPETITORS WHO  
DRANK THE MAGIC POTION  
ARE DISQUALIFIED! THE  
PALM OF VICTORY IS  
THEREFORE AWARDED  
TO... ASTERIX!

ASTERIX!  
HURRAH FOR  
ASTERIX!

I ALWAYS KNEW THE  
LITTLE FELLOW HAD  
IT IN HIM!

YOU MEAN...  
ASTERIX HAS  
WON?

IN A WAY,  
OBELEX.  
IN A WAY!

I SHOULD  
NOW LIKE...

THE CROWD GOES WILD  
WITH ENTHUSIASM.  
AND IT IS ON THIS  
NOTE...

AHA, AHA,  
AHA!

... THAT WE LEAVE  
THE LAND OF THE  
HELLENES. OUR  
FRIENDS HAVE A  
QUIET CRUISE  
HOME...

I'VE GOT THAT  
SINKING FEELING  
AGAIN...

... TO THEIR LITTLE VILLAGE, WHERE UNDER A STARRY  
SKY, THEY CELEBRATE THEIR OLYMPIC VICTORY -  
SOMETHING THAT DOES A LOT FOR ANY NATION'S  
PRESTIGE.

WHAT PUZZLES  
ME IS THE WAY THEY  
DISCRIMINATE  
AGAINST  
CAULDRONS...

EAT UP, DO,  
OBELEX!

AS FOR THE GREEK GIRLS,  
MY DEAR BELLOW - ABSOL-  
UTELY STATUESQUE!

WHERE'S YOUR  
PALM OF VICTORY,  
ASTERIX?

DON'T TELL  
THE OTHERS, BUT  
I GAVE IT TO  
SOMEONE WHOSE  
NEED WAS GREATER  
THAN MINE,  
RY TOUTATIS!

AND FOR ONCE...  
FOR ONCE CAESAR IS PLEASED!

LEGIONARY GILITEUS  
MAXIMUS, I MAKE YOU  
A CENTURION!  
CENTURION GAUIS  
VERAMBILIUS, I  
PROMOTE YOU TO  
TETRURNE!

THE  
END